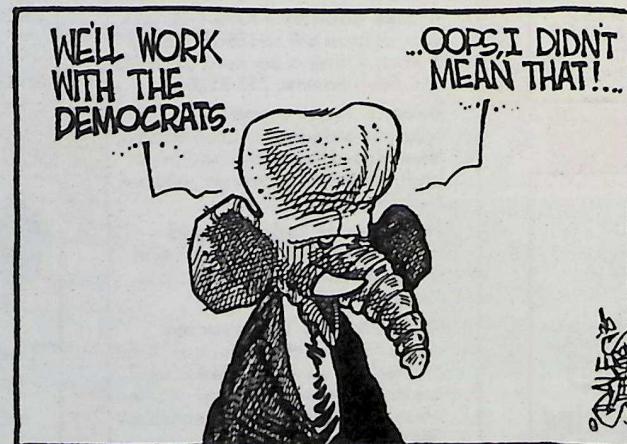
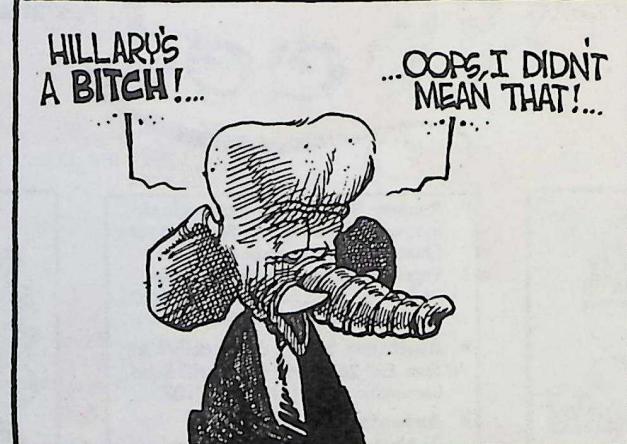
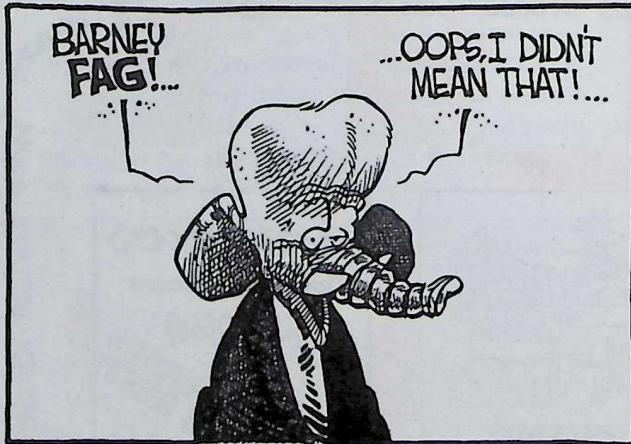


EPISODE #128
February 23, 1995

the Valley COMIC

N • E • W • S



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STORIES:

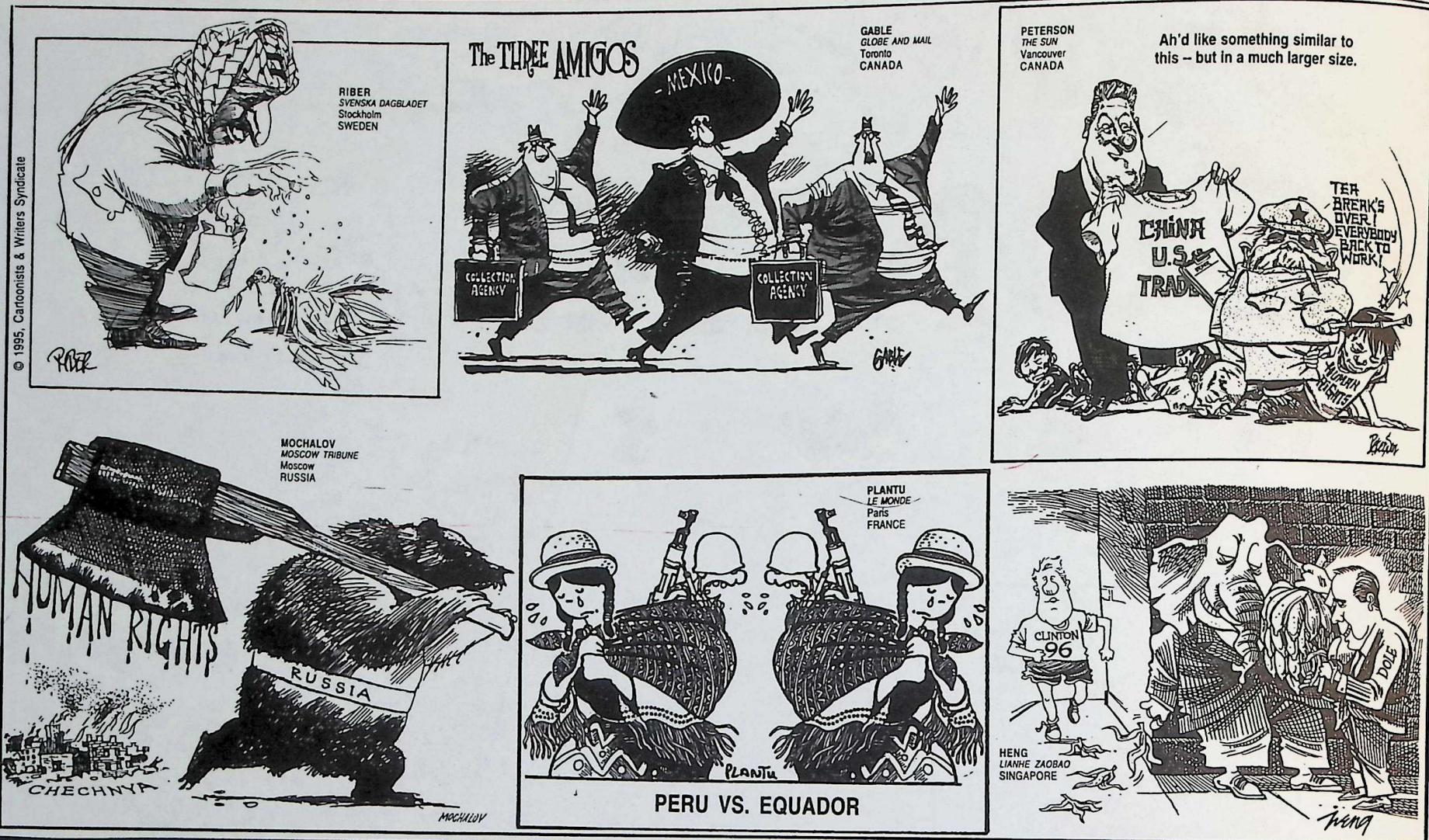
BEYOND POLITIX
AS THE WORLD SQUIRMS
THIS & THAT
USA TODAY

INSIDE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,
DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
MIKE CHRISMAN,
EARTHWEEK,
LEOLD

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VIEWS OF THE WORLD



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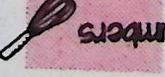
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PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



(Mike Chrisman is snowed in. He faxed us this column, which ran last year, during a brief respite from hacking away at drifts in his driveway.)

Some years ago, during one of the last winters it really snowed, I was coaxing my '54 Chevy flatbed up a slick hill in town. I was too dumb to throw a load of wood on the back for traction, so the truck was making moves in the road that would've made Madonna jealous. All of a sudden a town plow, loaded with sand, loomed over the hilltop. The driver saw me, hit his brakes, and did a complete 360° down the hill toward where I cowered, waiting to die. About ten yards in front of me the driver got control, and swept by in an immense clatter of sand and salt. Later that winter I recalled this incident to the driver, and ventured that it must have been a tense moment for him. "Yep," he answered. "And you should have seen your face."

I mention this to suggest that plow drivers are different than the rest of us; scientists claim it's something in the chromosomes. I remember this biological fact every year when the plows bury my mailbox. Before a storm the drivers take side bets on how many mailboxes they'll slaughter. They always get mine.

At this moment, two weeks after the last big snow, there's a glacier the size of an Oldsmobile in front of my house, and approximately one proton of my mailbox is visible above it. Shortly after the box disappeared, I tried to rescue it with a garden shovel and pickaxe. I might as well have used popsicle sticks. The postmistress suggested I rent a flamethrower.

So I pick up my mail at the post office now. They have a large container where they put mail for people like me. It's marked "Flattened Mailboxes." There are always a few people standing around at my post office; a couple of them snicker when they hear me ask for mail from the "Flattened" container. These are people who have mailboxes made of titanium. Their mailboxes, plus 12" of reinforced concrete bunker, cost them \$3,000, but it's worth it to laugh at me. Other people, with normal mailboxes, avoid meeting my eyes, as if what happened to my mailbox might be catching.

Mind you, I certainly don't begrudge plow drivers the enjoyment they get from grinding a box into tiny aluminum shards. They work astonishingly long hours under conditions that'd send Antarctic researchers scurrying back to their snug little research stations. They thrive on adversity — adversity and coffee. After a driver's first 8 hours in a storm, our town is required to provide an intravenous coffee drip bag. Furthermore, psychic investigation has revealed that most rural snowplow drivers were Boston cabbies in a former life. As Hub hack drivers, they believed in only two things: "A dent in my fender is worth two in your door" and "Cheap rates to the Combat Zone." So it's natural they'd devise ways to lighten their dangerous job. I just think it's gone a little too far when one nearby town's annual performance review for their drivers actually includes the category "Mailboxes Harvested."

I hope I don't get the plow drivers mad by saying all this. They're nice enough in warm weather, but something snaps when they get all that coffee in them. Because it's bad enough to have to wait till Summer before I can set up my mailbox for another six months. But I *really* don't want to come home some night and find a burning snowshovel planted on my lawn. So peace, guys. My box is out for the season, but I hope you all still get your quota.

The Valley Comic News

P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061

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Thanx to Erin Bohannon

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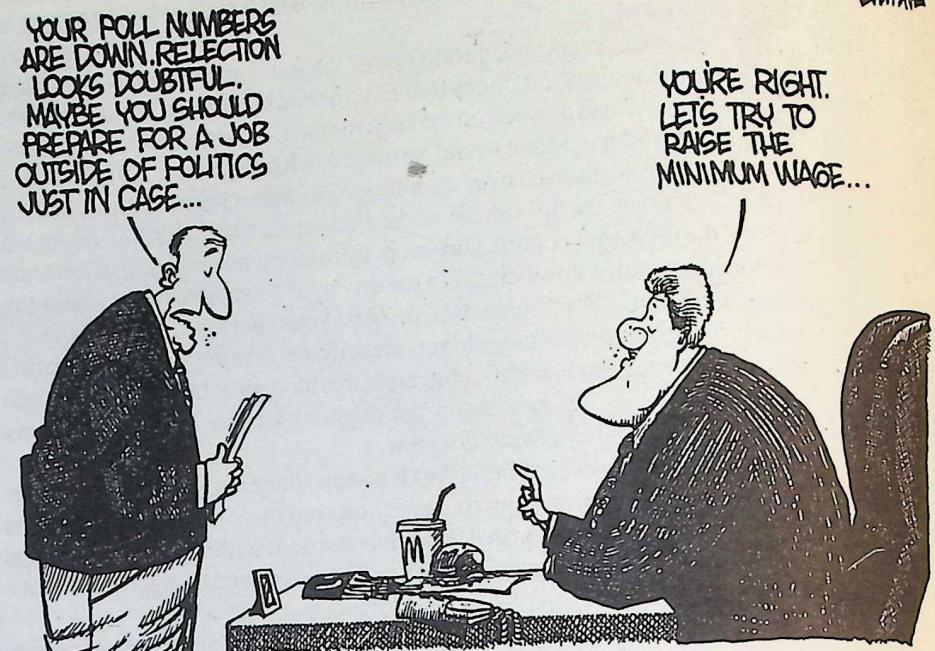
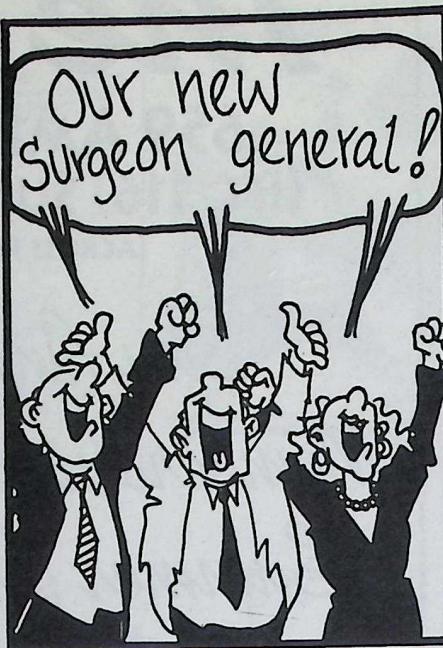
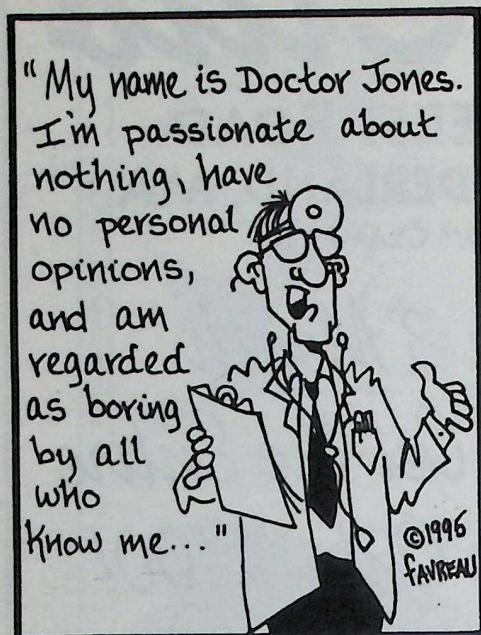
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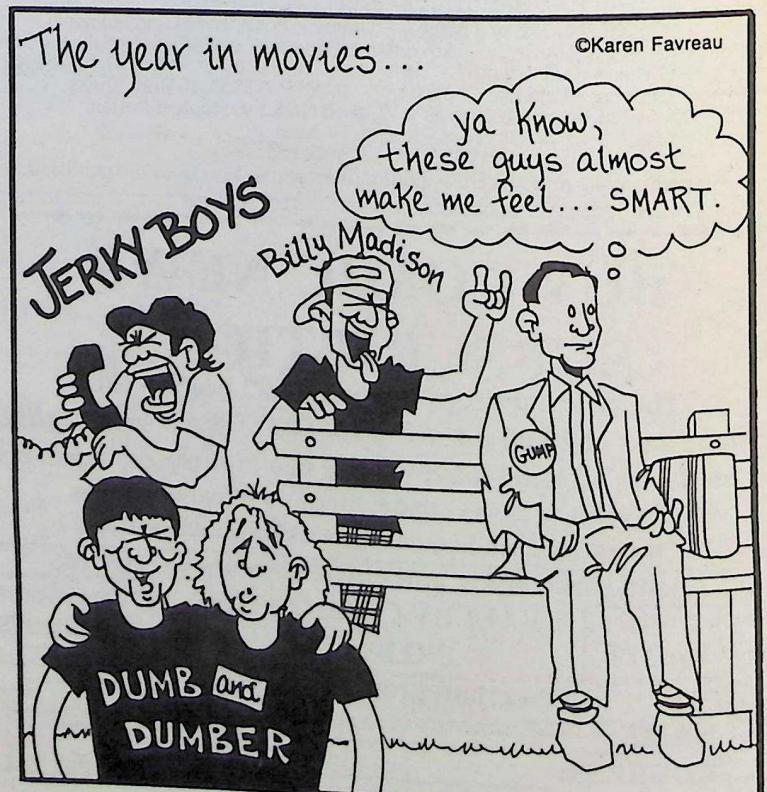
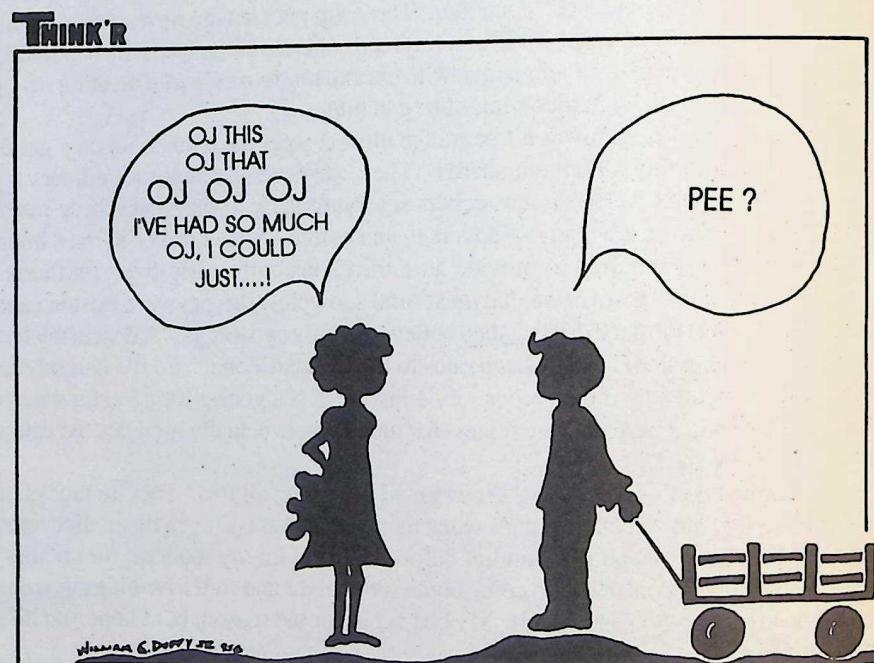
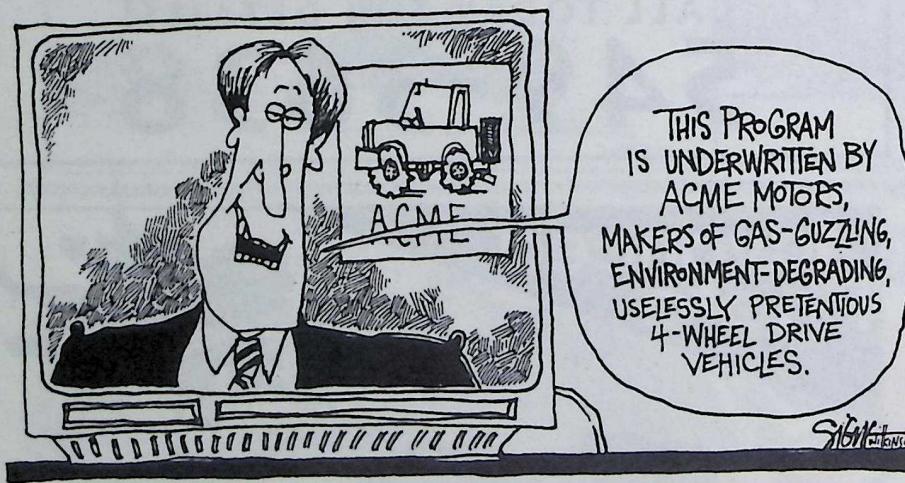
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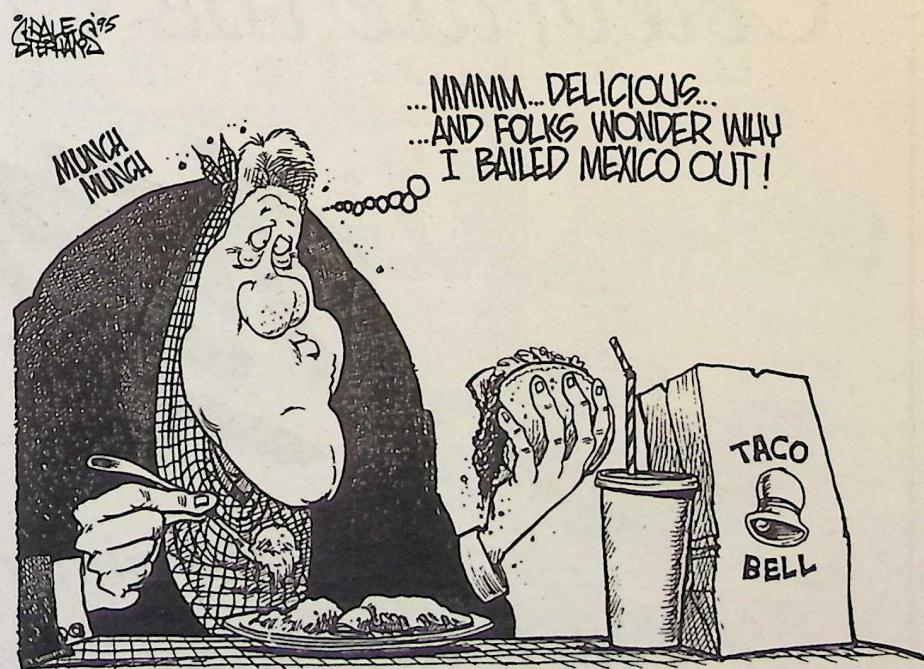
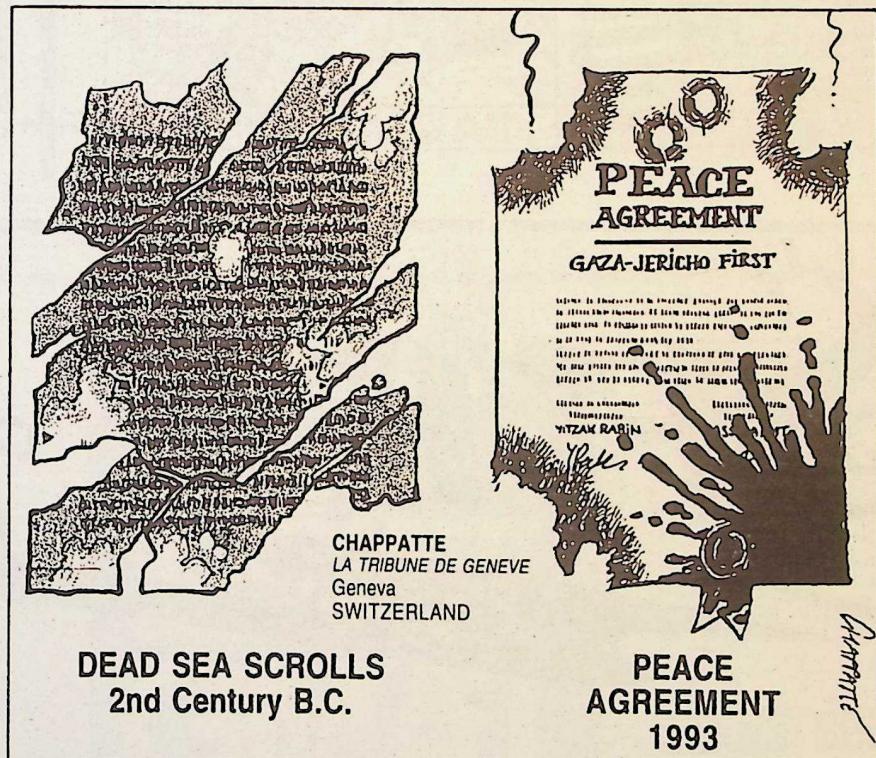
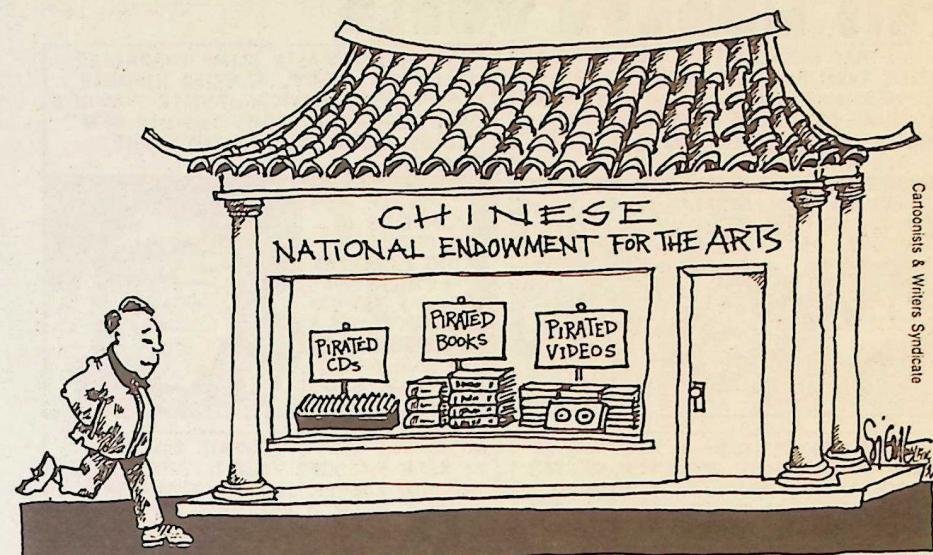
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AS THE WORLD SQUIRMS



THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

THIS MODERN WORLD

TM TOMORROW 02-15-95

THINGS HAD BEEN GETTING PRETTY ROUGH LATELY, EVEN BY THIS TOWN'S STANDARDS... A NEW MOB HAD MOVED IN & THEY WERE ABOUT AS GENTLE AS A HERD OF ELEPHANTS... IN FACT, THEY WERE A HERD OF ELEPHANTS...

THAT WAS FUN! NOW WHADDYA WANNA DO? LET'S GO BEAT UP SOME ELITISTS!

THEIR LEADER WAS A SLIMY CHARACTER CALLED THE **NEWT**... FANCIED HIMSELF A MAN OF ERUDITION... RUMOR WAS HE'D EVEN TAUGHT AT SOME TWO-BIT COW COLLEGE BEFORE GETTING INTO THE RACKETS...

...YOU SEE, MEN CAN LIVE IN DITCHES EATING GIRAFFES -- 'CAUSE WE DON'T GET NO INFECTIONS!

GOSH YOU'RE SMART, BOSS!

TROUBLE WAS, THE MOBS IN THIS TOWN ALREADY HAD A BOSS... BILLY CEE, BETTER KNOWN AS THE WAFFLE... A MAN SO SPINELESS HE GAVE JELLYFISH A BAD NAME...

SURE NEWT--I'D BE HAPPY TO WASH YOUR CAR! AND SHINE YOUR SHOES? UH--OKAY! NO PROBLEM!

ME, I WAS JUST A PRIVATE EYE TRYING TO KEEP MY BEAK CLEAN... BUT WHEN THE OLD CODGER CAME THROUGH MY DOOR, I KNEW IT WOULDN'T BE EASY...

MR. PENGUIN--THE NEWT SAYS HE'S GOT A CONTRACT WITH ME--BUT I NEVER SIGNED A THING!

I NEED YOUR HELP!

HE PAID MY FEE WITH A CREDIT CARD... SAID HE WAS HAVING DEFICIT PROBLEMS... (CONT'D NEXT WEEK!)

THIS MODERN WORLD

(CONT'D) I'D BEEN HIRED BY A GEEZER WITH STRANGE TASTE IN CLOTHES... A MOBSTER CALLED THE NEWT WAS TRYING TO ENFORCE SOME CONTRACT THE OLD MAN HAD NEVER SIGNED...

I NEED YOUR HELP!

I TRACKED DOWN ONE OF THE NEWT'S MOST FAWNNG LACKEYS--A LOUD-MOUTHED DEEJAY WHO'D ALWAYS SOUNDED TO ME LIKE HIS NEEDLE WAS STUCK...

WHAT--WHAT--I MEAN-- I'LL TELLYA--YOU LIBERALS--WHY--WHY-- I MEAN--I--I--

JUST GIVE HIM THE MESSAGE, RADIO BOY.

ON AIR

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR A COUPLE OF GOONS TO PAY ME A VISIT.

TIME TO GO FOR A RIDE, PENGUIN.

YOU BOYS HAVE BEEN TAKING A LOT OF PEOPLE FOR A RIDE LATELY, HAVEN'T YOU?

THIS WASN'T GOING TO GET ME ANYWHERE... BUT WHEN I TURNED TO LEAVE I FELT COLD STEEL IN MY BACK...

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, PENGUIN--OR I'LL ZERO YOU OUT!

I AIN'T DONE TALKIN' ABOUT MYSELF YET!

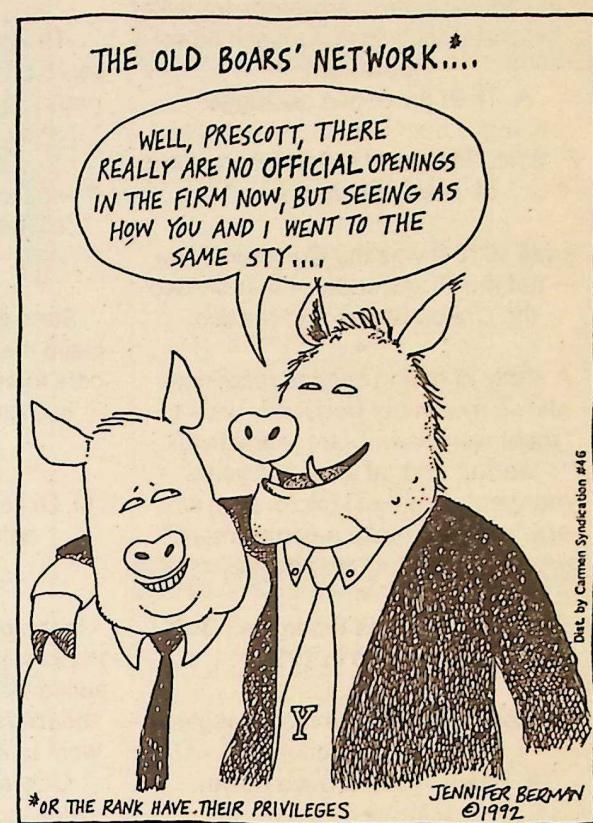
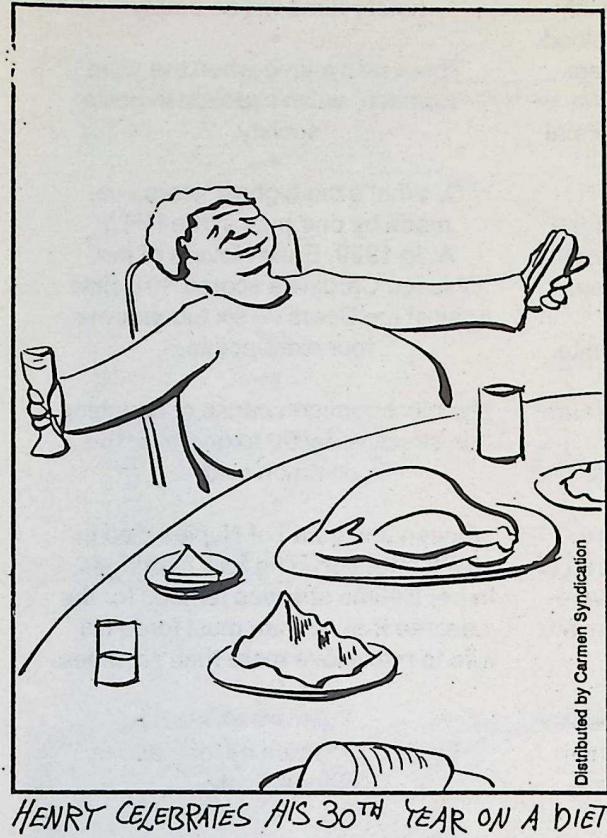
HE LECTURED ME ON THE TOPIC OF HIS OWN BRILLIANCE FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS... IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN LESS PAINFUL JUST TO LET HIM SHOOT ME... (MORE NE-- NECK)

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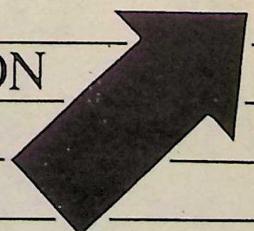


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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

by L.M. Boyd

Q. What is it about youngsters' faces that change in the early teens to make them suddenly look so much more grown up?

A. Their jawbones get bigger.

F. Scott Fitzgerald called love "a form of divine drunkenness."

Until 1836 it was the Colorado River — not the Rio Grande — that divided the United States and Mexico.

A study of dating service responses shows men most frequently want to meet women who are "attractive," "warm," and "at least five years younger." Women look for men who are "ready to make a commitment," "successful," and "taller."

Teflon is as old as Fiberglas. Both showed up in 1938.

Q. How many people have cougars killed in this country?
A. Since 1890, about a dozen.

The fastest-growing type of land development worldwide is golf courses. In Thailand, for example, a new course gets started every ten days.

Monkeys give birth at night.

The humorist Sam Levinson observed, "The reason grandparents and grandchildren get along so well is that they have a common enemy."

If Jupiter were hollow, it could contain all the other planets in our solar system.

State police looking for marijuana claim they like to pull over out-of-state cars to see if they have air fresheners in them — they believe there's a connection.

Q. Did any musical instrument originate in the United States?
A. Only the banjo.

In the great Puritan migration from 1629 to 1640, most of the English who sailed west did not choose to come to the mainland. Thirty-eight thousand went to the West Indies or Bermuda.

Only fourteen thousand went to Massachusetts, eight thousand to Virginia.

At last report car dealerships were folding at a rate of 150 a year.

The original villains caught "red-handed" were poachers, so swiftly apprehended they still dripped blood from dressing out the King's deer.

The score of a forfeited professional baseball game is 9 to 0.

Cornelius Vanderbilt, the first of the rich to be called a millionaire, took twelve lumps of sugar in his tea.

Panda cubs are born entirely white.

Q. How far can a good dogsled team go in half an hour?
A. At least five miles.

In 1887 a Pole named Ludovic Lazarus Zamenhoff lived in an area of Russia where four languages were spoken. That's what pushed him into creating Esperanto.

On New York's Wall Street is a table-service McDonald's with a doorman, piano player, and stock ticker.

Can you really take weight specifically off your hips? Or thighs? Or abdomen? Perhaps, although one expert says, "If spot reducing worked, gum chewers would have skinny faces."

On an average night, two out of five hotel rooms will be empty.

There was a time when the word "stomach" wasn't spoken in polite society.

Q. What's the highest score ever made by one man in the NFL?

A. In 1929, Ernie Nevers of the Chicago Cardinals scored 40 points against the Bears — six touchdowns, four extra points.

The most common cause of coughing is stress — by 50 to one over the common cold.

Queen Johanna I of Naples died in 1382 after surviving four marriages. In her lifetime she was famous for the decree that no man must force his wife to make love more than six times a day.

Humans live twice as long as any other primate.

Q. Why do salt processors put sugar in our table salt?

A. An infinitesimal amount of dextrose stabilizes the iodide and enhances the flavor.

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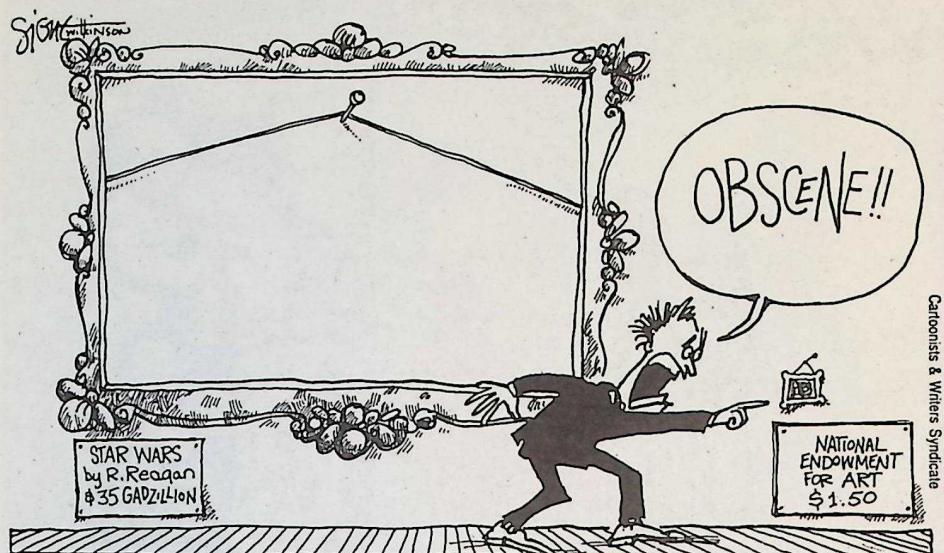
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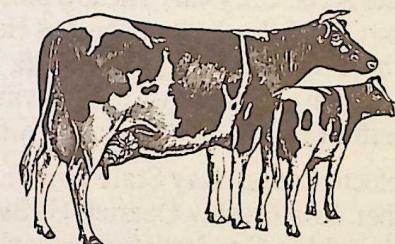
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THU
TWENTYTHREE

Katina's: Selectrocution Iron Horse: Chuck & Tom of Schooner Fare (7pm), plus Klar's Bar 10-1:00 (no cover) Bay State Hotel: The Kiss-Off, w/ Miss Reed, Veronica Cartwrights, Mal Thursday & The Cheetahs, Amanda's Dirty Secret, many more.... Seven O's: DJ dance club Pearl Street: Zeke Fiddler, Home, Cameron's Way, plus 18+ dance music by Spin, Inc. North Star: hot Latin music w/ DJ CPR Fire & Water: Ellen Cross, Under The House Northampton Center for the Arts: Chrysalis Theatre presents *Dancing With Chaos*, written and directed by Andrea Hairston

FRI
TWENTYFOUR

Pearl Street: Murphy's Law, Doom Nation, plus Retro night, w/ DJ Dennis Seven O's: Flipside Northampton Center for the Arts: Chrysalis Theatre presents *Dancing With Chaos*, written and directed by Andrea Hairston Hotel Northampton: Ed Vadas & the Fabulous Heavyweights Bay State Hotel: Unsane, H.P. Zinker UMass Fine Arts Center: Michael Moschen, juggler Fire & Water: Heartsong, Wes Brown & Kalpana Devi Iron Horse: Mighty Sam McClain (7pm), dancing w/ DJ Shawnuff (10pm) Katina's: Rippopotamus Peking Garden/Humorworks: Jim Laulette North Star: 18+ dance party Waterfront: Lobsterz from Marz

SAT
TWENTYFIVE

Katina's: Selectrocution Bay State Hotel: Steve Westfield & The Slow Band Fire & Water: Bruce Weinraub, Jerald Harscher, Ron Freshly Quartet UMass New World Theatre: *Frederick Douglass Now* Hotel Northampton: Dave Brinnel Peking Garden/Humorworks: Jim Laulette Pearl Street: Mary Karlzen, plus Top 40 dance party w/ DJ Dave Northampton Center for the Arts: Chrysalis Theatre presents *Dancing With Chaos*, written and directed by Andrea Hairston North Star: Sue Burkhart, plus dance party, w/ DJ Steven (white party) Seven O's: Flipside Iron Horse: The Nields, Jabbering Trout (7pm), Check, Please! (10pm)

SUN
TWENTYSIX

Northampton Brewery: The Maggies, Ray Mason Band Fire & Water: Jim Hesson, accordianist (2pm), Interplay Jazz Trio (7pm), Maple Ridge (9pm) Seven O's: open mic, w/ host Mark Snow North Star: T-dance w/ DJ Mike (5-8pm), Townie Nite, w/ DJ Betsey (8pm) Bay State Hotel: Combine, Meristem, Monkeytail Northampton Center for the Arts: Chrysalis Theatre presents *Dancing With Chaos*, written and directed by Andrea Hairston (2pm) UMass Fine Arts Center: Alexander & Angeles (string quartets) Iron Horse: Loudon Wainright III, John Forster Katina's: Velvet Voodoo Dolls

MON
TWENTYSEVEN

Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights (free!) Katina's: Gay Nite, w/ Debbie DeRose (Melissa Ethridge Tribute Band) Fire & Water: Open stage (7pm), Fire & Water Big Band (10pm) North Star: C & W nite, w/ DJ Cathy Northampton Brewery: Women's Spotlight, featuring Lyn Hardy, Sarah Burrill

TUE
TWENTYEIGHT

Northampton Brewery: open mic, w/ host Paul Hansbury Northampton Center for the Arts: Readers and Writers Live — Gail Burton & Diane Beckett reading the play *Muses* North Star: Boyz Nite Out, w/ DJ Steven (Lip synch contest) Smith College (John M. Greene Hall): Buddy Guy, Chris Duarte Iron Horse: Under The House

WED
ONE

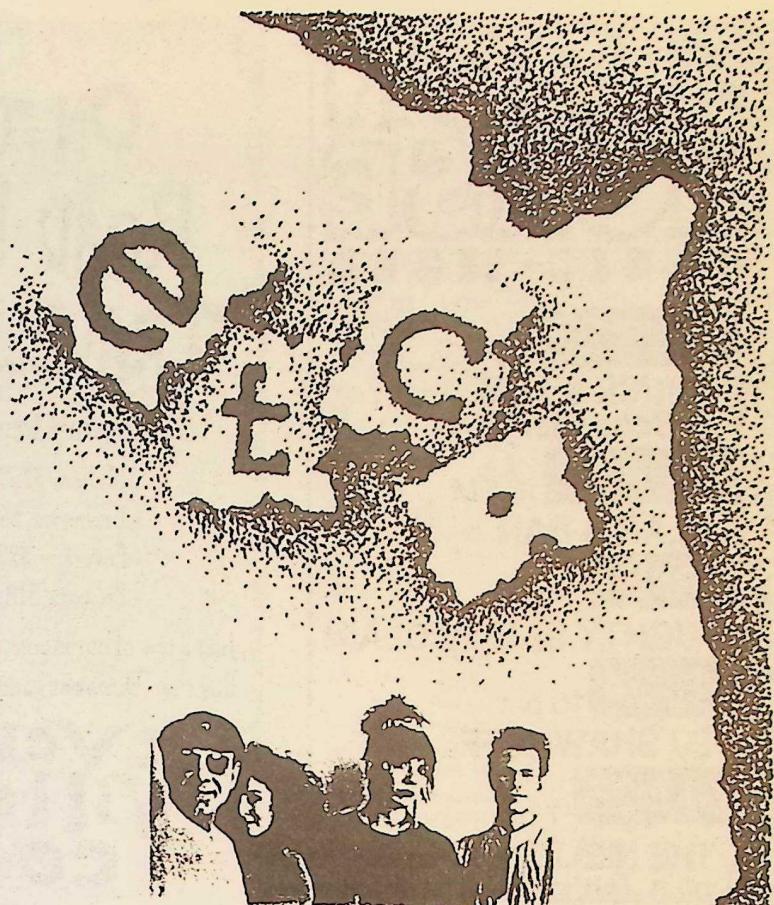
Bay State Hotel: Bay State electric open (no cover!), featuring Serpico, The Irresponsibles Iron Horse: Todd Snider Katina's: Katina's Country Night Pearl Street: Gay Night — dancing to music by Spin, Inc. Northampton Brewery: Homegrown night, w/ The Equalites Fire & Water: Word on Wednesday — open poetry (7pm)





The Amy Fairchild Band

Tobey photo



THU
TWO

Pearl Street: Sister Carol, New Horizon, plus 18+ dance party, w/ Nick Danger UMass Fine Arts Center: Diva, No Man's Band, w/ Marlena Shaw Bay State Hotel: Zeke Fiddler, Gobblehoof Alumni (incl. J Mascis), Stubb Katina's: Selectrocution North Star: tropical party nite Fire & Water: Russell Brooks, Sourpuss Amherst College: Whiskey Tango

FRI
THREE

Iron Horse: Bill Morrissey Bay State Hotel: Big Bad Bollocks North Star: 18+ dance party Waterfront: Long Green Hair Seven O's: Sundown Pearl Street: Synaesthesia (record release party), Fossil, plus Retro night w/ DJ Dennis Katina's: Hot Hammer Soup

SAT
FOUR

Katina's: Selectrocution Fire & Water: Vector Chicken, Zen Cats North Star: 21+ Club nite w/ DJ Steven Seven O's: Sundown Bay State Hotel: Amanda's Dirty Secret (CD release extravaganza) w/ special guests Pearl Street: Physical Graffiti, plus Top 40 Dance Party w/ DJ Dave Iron Horse: Christine Lavin

SUN
FIVE

Iron Horse: Jesse Colin Young Seven O's: Open mic w/ Mark Snow North Star: Townie Nite, w/ DJ Betsey ("stuff you've never heard") Northampton Brewery: Home, Zeke Fiddler

MON
SIX

North Star: C & W Nite Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights (free!) Northampton Brewery: Women's Spotlight, featuring Linée Peroncell, Lesley Smith Katina's: Gay Night Fire & Water: Open stage (7pm), Faults & Convictions

TUE
SEVEN

Northampton Brewery: open mic w/ host Chairman North Star: Boyz Nite Out, w/ DJ Steven Pearl Street: Teen Dance Nite Fire & Water: a night of song w/ Nice Shoes

WED
EIGHT

Katina's: Katina's Country Night Bay State Hotel: Bay State electric open (no cover), featuring Shovelhead, Stella Pearl Street: Gay Night, w/ music by Spin, Inc. Fire & Water: Word on Wednesday — open poetry (7pm) Northampton Brewery: Homegrown night North Star: 30-something Partner Nite Iron Horse: Walter "Wolfman" Washington

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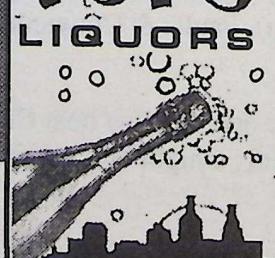
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Earthquakes

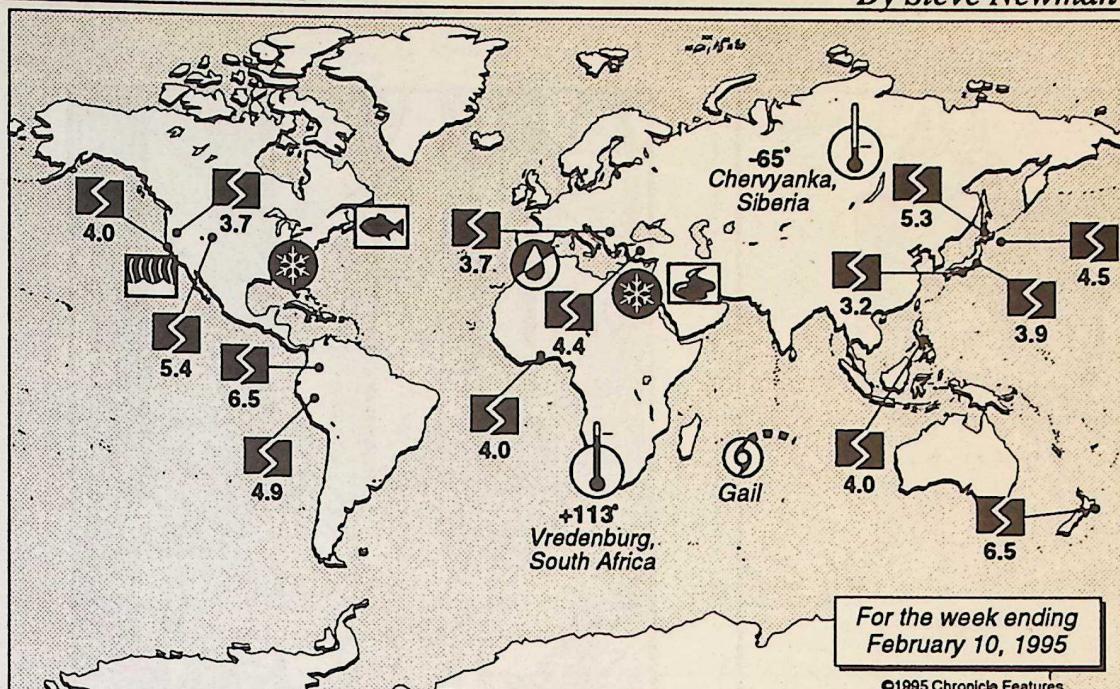
 The second deadly earthquake to strike Colombia this year killed at least 37 people and toppled buildings in western and central parts of the country. In southwest Wyoming, a strong tremor killed one miner and injured several others who were working 1,600 feet underground.

As aftershocks of the Kobe earthquake continued to rumble beneath the region, reports of aurora-like flashes just before and after the deadly Jan. 17 tremor were announced by a Japanese professor. Tamenari Tsukuda of Tokyo University said one of the more intriguing sightings was a flash that streaked from east to west about eight feet above the ground shortly after the quake. Phenomena like this are believed to be due to electrical and magnetic waves generated by the grinding of the earth's crust.

Earth movements were also felt in other parts of Japan, as well as in Ghana, northwest Turkey, western Romania, the troubled Ecuador-Peru border region, Luzon, northern New Zealand, northwestern California and northern Oregon.

Tropical Migration

 Vast numbers of warm-water sea creatures are migrating farther north each year along the California coast in response to rising ocean temperatures. Charles Baxter, one of four scientists at Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station that published the finding in the journal *Science*, believes this may be first evidence of the impact of global warming, at least in the Northern Hemisphere. The study began with a detailed inventory of underwater species in Monterey Bay during the early 1930s, and shows that the average shoreline temperature has risen by 1.35 degree since then. The average summer water temperature has gone up four degrees.

**Drought**

 Even while flood waters steadily receded in rivers across northern Europe, a worsening drought in Spain wilted crops and caused water reserves to dwindle to dangerous levels. The drought has spread relentlessly over the Iberian Peninsula since the early 1990s, and shepherds watching their flocks nibble at the sparse grass cannot remember a worse drought this century.

Across the Strait of Gibraltar, in Morocco, officials announced they plan to import huge amounts of grain to make up for crop failures due to drought in that country.

Tropical Storm

 Moderate tropical cyclone Gail formed over the open waters of the west-central Indian Ocean, then lost force while skirting Rodrigues Island, the easternmost member of the Mauritius chain.

Near Extinction

 Cod in Canada's Atlantic waters—once considered one of the world's greatest fishing grounds—is now commercially extinct, according to the latest government figures. The stock of fish has continued a precipitous decline despite a ban on cod fishing there since 1992. Fisheries Minister Brian Tobin says over-exploitation, changing habitat and predatory seals may have caused the stock to decline from 400,000 tons in 1990, to just 2,700 tons in 1994.

Winter

 The Egyptian Mediterranean seaport of Alexandria was hit by a snowstorm that covered its streets and buildings in white for the first time in living memory. Egypt's Middle East News Agency said the storm was unprecedented, and accompanied by gale-force winds.

The first major winter storm of the

season in the eastern U.S. was followed by a bitter chill that blew deep into the South, threatening Florida's citrus belt with frost and a freeze.

Healing

 Animal life in the northern Persian Gulf has largely recovered from the massive amount of oil that was dumped into the water by Iraqi forces during the closing days of the Gulf War four years ago, according to Germany's Senckenberg Society. The nature researchers announced in Frankfurt that while some areas remain heavily polluted, animal and plant life have recovered between 50 and 100 percent of their pre-war levels as the oil was dispersed by natural forces. But the threat of chronic damage has not entirely disappeared, with the consequences of pollution still evident in many wildlife sectors.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.

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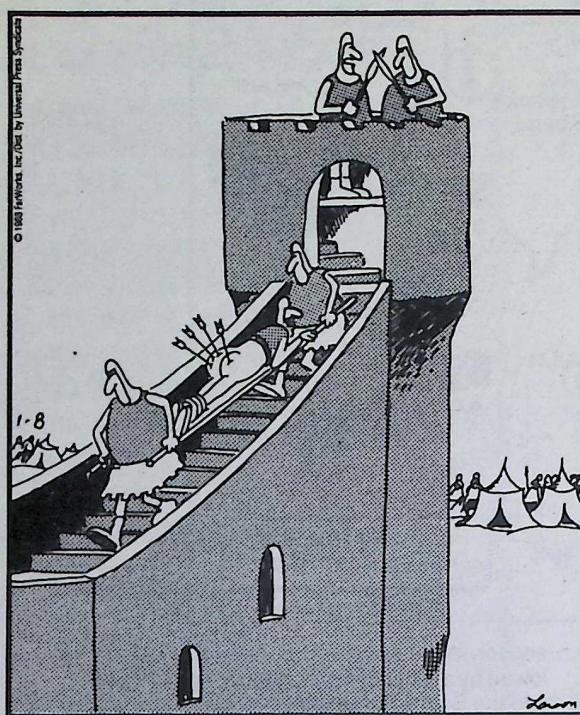
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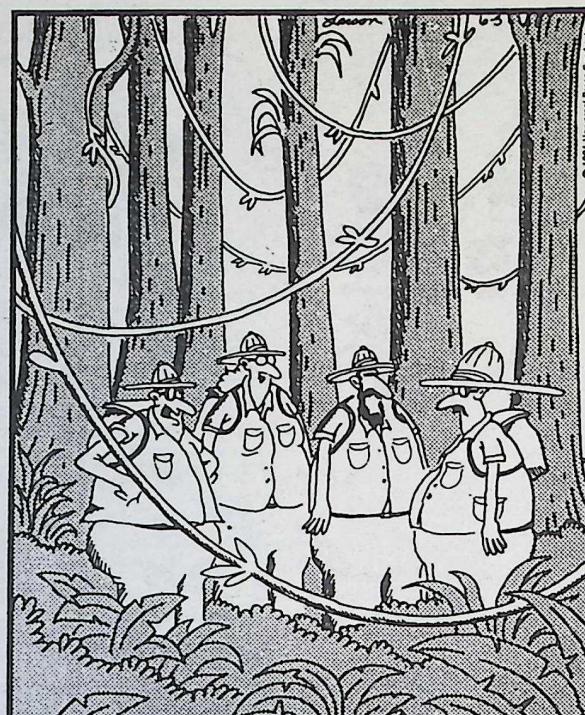
Call (802) 258-2511 for schedule and locations.

THE FAR SIDE

BY GARY LARSON



"So then I says to Borg, 'You know, as long as we're under siege, one of us oughta moon these Saxon dogs.'"



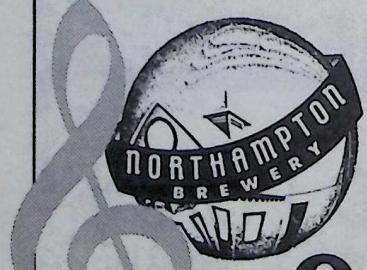
"Well, we're lost. I knew from the start that it was just plain idiotic to choose a leader based simply on the size of his or her respective pith helmet.
Sorry, Cromwell."



"Oh, yeah! Well, I'd rather be a living corpse made from dismembered body parts than a hunchbacked little grave robber like you!"

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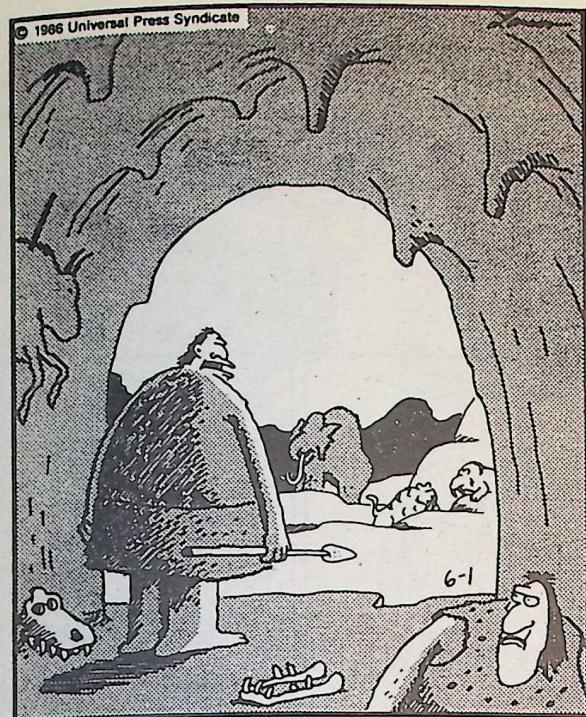
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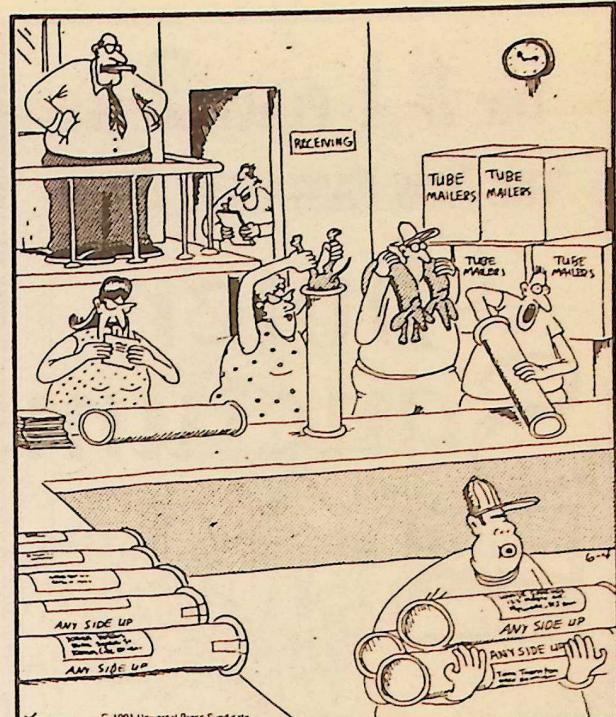
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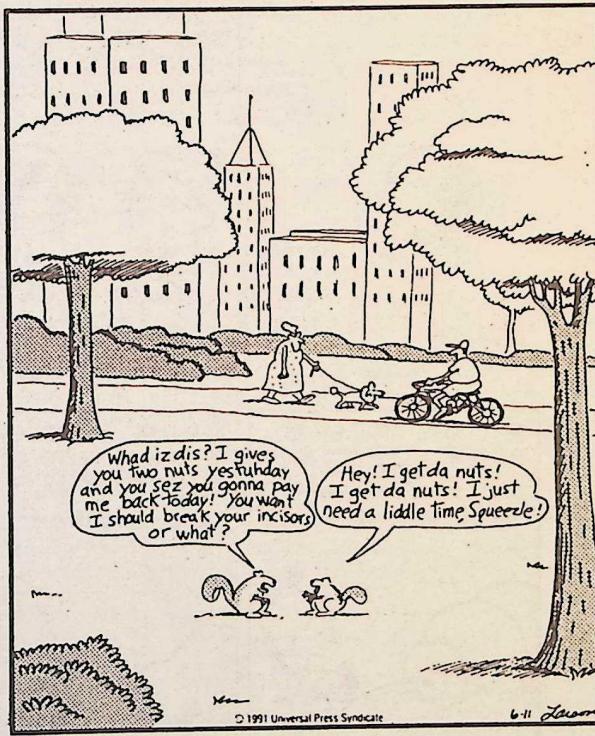
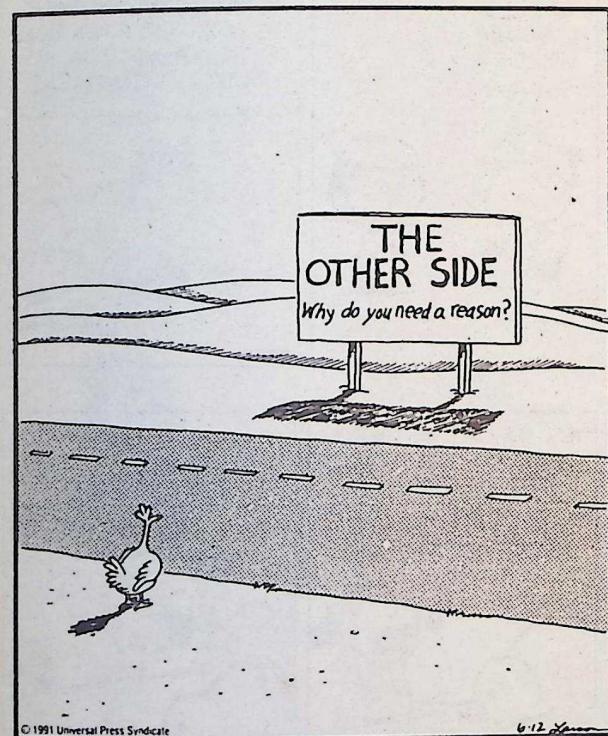
"Once in a while couldn't we just have some pasta?"



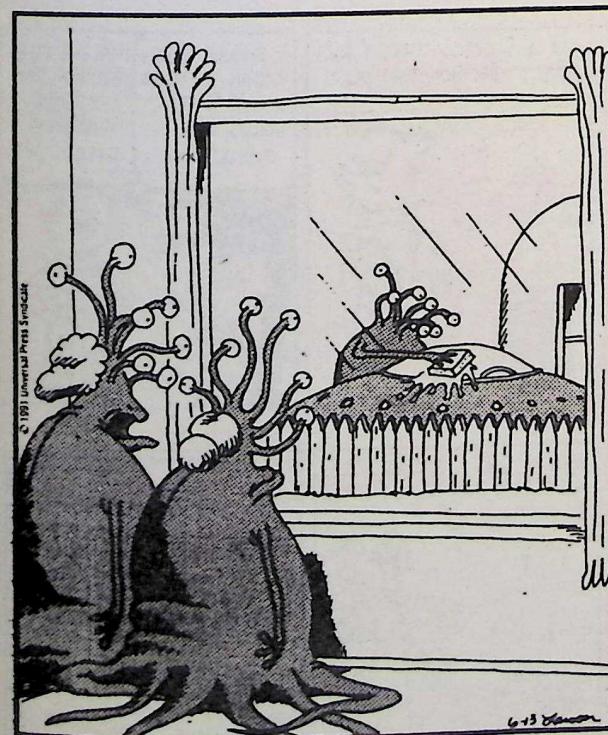
Saturday mornings in cockroach households



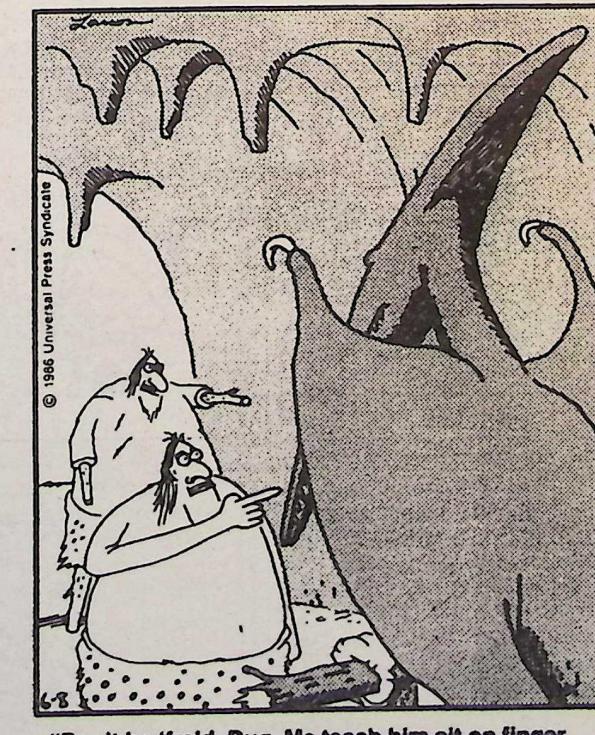
Wiener dog distribution centers



The squirrels of Central Park



"The guy creeps me out, Zeena. Sure, he looks like he's just minding his own business -- but he always keeps that one eye on my house."

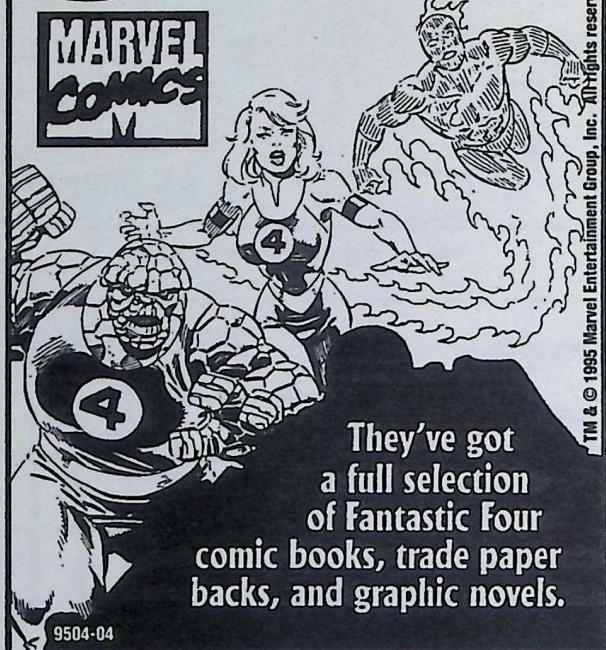


"Don't be 'fraid, Dug. Me teach him sit on finger. ... Closer, Dug, closer."



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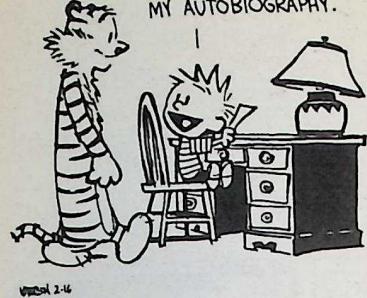
Next to Brueggers

Calvin and Hobbes

by BILL
MATTERSON



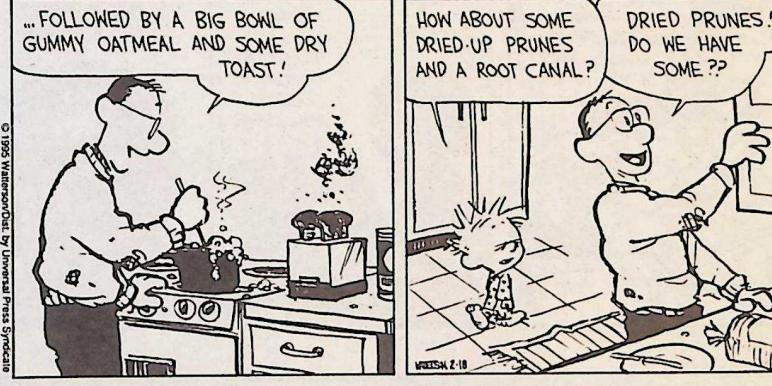
MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A CHILD PRODIGY, SO THAT'S WHY I'M WRITING MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY.



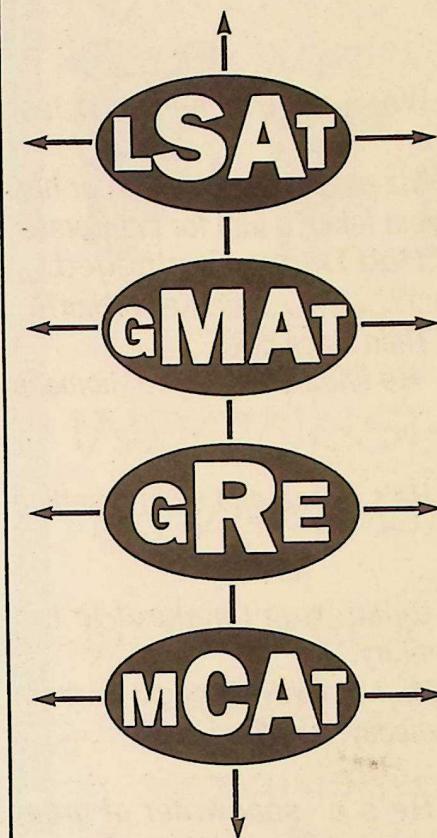
AHH, WHAT COULD BE BETTER THAN A SATURDAY 6-MILE RUN AT DAWN IN 20-DEGREE WEATHER...



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KAPLAN

Leold

by Roger & Salem Salloom

We were watching VH1 last night.

Niz asked me, "Is it me, or has Bob Dylan taken a turn for the worse?Bob Dylan Unplugged. by whom?Dr. Kervorkian?"

Then Gabe said, "He should've stayed home in bed.

He's gonna end up in a petting zoo.

Dylan won't make it to the next century." Too bad..... I always thought I'd meet him someday. I idolized him.

He's a songwriter of great subtlety and depth.

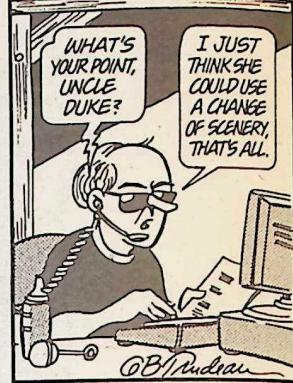
Ah....who cares?.....he hasn't called me lately anyway.

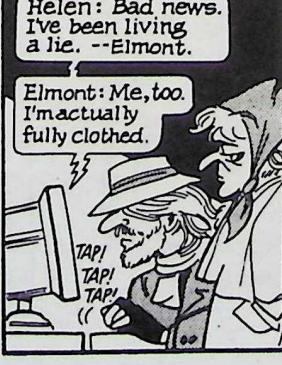
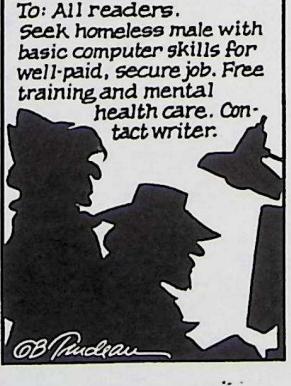
At what point do the students teach the master?



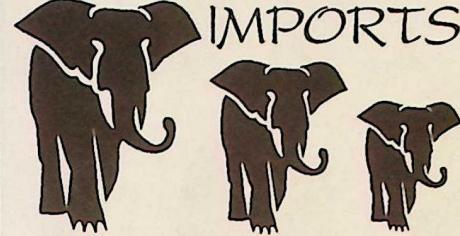
Doonesbury

BY G. B. TRUDEAU





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